

JULY 1992

# Point three

PRICE 30p



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The magazine of



**TOC H**



## Point three

the magazine of  **TOC H**

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Revd P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

## Toc H and Trust

You would like her a great deal. She has lovely graceful limbs and the warmest of smiles. And when she talks there is trust in that gentle voice. A young woman who is barely one third of her way through life. It has been a turbulent journey and often she has felt alone, looking through the glass darkly.

Then this strange experience called life all came together. She is now the mother of two young children and living in a stable relationship in the home that she bought by herself. There is sensitivity in a face full of kindness. A complete absence of self-pity. She has put away her wounds. She has inspected them closely but does not waste her vital energy on keeping them alive, or in living in the past. She likes herself. It is infectious. She has learned to trust and, when I asked her to share her story with the readers of *Point three*, I felt grateful to be trusted. From that meeting point there developed the conspiracy of liking one another, of sharing experience and laughter in an atmosphere of safety. (Her story is on page four. There is no photo because she is to remain anonymous).

Trust is the foundation stone of friendship. It can be hard to take risks for friendship's sake when you may have been betrayed in life. You have to learn to let go of your pain and heal the wounds. Friendship is the first step in the experience that Toc H offers - love can be felt strongly and spontaneously through shared experience. It is about looking forward together towards the same goal even though we may travel by different paths.

Toc H has something solid and safe behind it; it has the security of holding within itself all the warmth, love and

wisdom of some of the 'wise ones' of this century. This brings a living energy which has a rightful place in the awareness of the late 20th century. It does not need to jostle awkwardly to fit in with New Age thinking - which encourages us to gain access to our Higher Self; a concept not inconsistent with the inward journey we are all making.

Learning to take a chance, take a risk, in relationships is one of the most important challenges that life has to offer. There is everything to be gained, including the discovery of the *awe-ful* potential of the human spirit. It is not an easy journey. Acquiring a genuine interest and feeling for our fellow beings is not always a natural gift.

Many readers will know a book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*. He wrote another, less well known book called *Wind, Sand and Stars* (Penguin Modern Classics). It says a lot about the human spirit. I remember some lines from at least 20 years ago that fit in with my Toc H experience:

Happiness. It is useless to seek it other than in the warmth of human relationships. Only a comrade can grasp you by the hand and set you free.... To set man free it is enough that we help one another to realise that there does exist a goal towards which all mankind is striving. Why should we not strive towards that goal together, since it is what unites us all?

The starting point of Toc H is friendship. Hurrah to that! And it is as well to remember that 'only the Spirit, if it breathe upon the clay, can create man'.

Ruth Boyd

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**Cover:** The Northants District A.G.M. at Rushden on 21st May

**Photo:** Trevor Bruton



*Point three* is printed on recycled paper

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Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H movement.

*Point three* is available from Toc H Headquarters. Price: 30p per copy or £3.60 per year's subscription. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.

### BRANCH NEWS

We would like to receive more news from branches about their work in the community, such as individual projects.





## Chaplain's Diary

*I am always amazed and excited by the contrasts I experience in Toc H. But then it is part of the joy and uniqueness of the Movement that it encompasses so many different kinds of experiences and people. This is, of course, the very stuff of which Toc H is made, something we deliberately seek out and, through such variety, we discover new friendships and, hopefully, grow a little ourselves.*

### In The Quire But Not Of It

Only last week Adrian Dudman and I were among 2000 people at Westminster Abbey for the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe. Toc H now shares a Chaplain with the Diocese (in Poperinge and Ieper), but when I responded to the invitation to the celebration we hardly expected to be sitting up in the 'Quire' (or choirstalls) in the face of all the action! To our left was the Lord Mayor and to our right Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret.

Our newest President, the Archbishop of Canterbury, preached the sermon. Much of what he said could have equally applied to the work of Toc H as he talked about the importance of working sensitively with those of other denominations and cultures. I only wish I could remember one of his quotes about taking the light of Christianity to others. It seemed particularly appropriate to Toc H.

After the rich grandeur of the Abbey and the resounding organ playing, we had the opportunity to talk briefly with the Archbishop, among many others, at a reception in Church House. For Adrian it was the renewing of an old friendship. For me, I hope it paved the way to a meeting with our President. We shall wait and see.

### Corby Rededication

Only two days later and I was in a small United Reformed Church in Corby Town Centre for a Toc H rededication service. About 40 people from Corby and the surrounding branches made my wife Elizabeth and me warmly welcome. One member asked Elizabeth to which Branch she belonged. Elizabeth confessed that she is not a member! The response was, never mind, you are welcome to join us anytime! That says a lot. We had to delay the start of the service - a minibus had lost its way. I found myself playing the piano for the first

hymn until a willing volunteer from the congregation took over.

John Davies, the secretary of the branch, was only just recovering from a stroke and an unpleasant tummy bug, but he and his small group of local members worked hard to make all the arrangements and to produce tea. We sat at trestle tables covered in clean white cloths for sandwiches, cakes and the inevitably well-brewed Toc H tea! Unfortunately we could not stay for the entertainment, but we left with the usual feelings of warmth and friendship, having met most of the people for the very first time.

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The contrasts between these two events are dramatic. But they cannot be compared. Each was an experience in itself. Meeting the Archbishop and mixing with the 'high and mighty' left me with a thrilling feeling. But for the essentials of life: friendship, warmth and simplicity of worship, give me Corby every time.

Perhaps there is a lesson to be learnt here for all of us. Life is full of the ordinary and the extraordinary, the down-to-earth and the special. The special is to be valued and the experience remembered as precious. Such moments enrich our lives. Enjoy the extraordinary, the special event or moment. But never let it be a substitute for the things of greatest value. It is easy to take the ordinary for granted, for it to be overshadowed by the special event. But we must be rooted in the ordinary; it is there that we build our lives, in those everyday relationships that give us our security.

God can certainly be experienced in the extraordinary. But it is more important to remember him in the ordinary routine of everyday relationships.

Alan Johnson National Chaplain ■



# The Journey So Far

A new member recently talked to *Ruth Boyd* very openly about her life. In some ways it has been more eventful than most and her courage is something that readers might like to share. The editor's comments about this experience are mentioned in this issue's editorial.

I'm 31 years old and have two sons, aged 6 years old and a year and three months. I'm not really sure why I joined Toc H. I went on a project, as a client not as a volunteer. I was picked because I'd been in trouble, a while back, not recently, and my probation officer suggested the project. Joining just seemed to go on from there. It was a strange experience. I felt I had more in common with the leaders and volunteers and I've been involved in other projects since and in fundraising.

I've only been in trouble once - for cheque book fraud. And that arose because of eating disorders. I suffered from anorexia nervosa since my teens and this led to another eating disorder, bulimia. I was caught for the cheque fraud. The police were very kind and caring and I was given two years probation.

I don't know why I became anorexic. I was in it before I knew what was happening. I think it came from low self-esteem; a feeling that I was not valued for what I was, as a person. I was striving to be something. When I got thinner I always felt much more confident and able to take people on. I was much more aggressive and it tended to enable me to keep in more control of my life. The thinner I got the more happy I became. I don't know where it came from because I had a very happy upbringing and there was nothing in my childhood to make me have such a low self-esteem.

I'd left home. I started living on just little bits of food like salad. And I was taking speed (amphetamine drugs), which suppresses the appetite. I was always hyped-up, always crazy. I used to sleep when I fell down. One year I just totally missed Christmas altogether. I didn't know what was happening at all. I was living on my own. My parents were confused. They just didn't know what was going on. They knew I was getting too thin - they didn't know why. I was working in London as a P.A. and coming back at weekends. They knew something was wrong but I was just so aggressive with everyone they didn't get anywhere with me. They tried to be caring towards me, but I just thought they were interfering. I did my job alright and I had a dog which I looked after well.

Everything that was necessary I did, but when it came to me - I was just on this roller ball backwards. I got myself



into situations where I was arguing with people and they could have got violent with me and I didn't really care. I just used to have an attitude that if people threatened me I would just carry on. If I wanted to get into a club I'd just annoy them until they had to let me in. I can't believe it now.

I was with a crowd. I got into a pretty rotten crowd. I sometimes think I've got an addictive personality. I could very easily get addicted to things. A lot of people who dabbled with speed then, they just left it behind. I became addicted to it. People say you can't be addicted to speed, but I know I was. I couldn't live without it. I went on holiday one year for a few weeks to Greece and I was desperate to get more speed. I thought I'd put on weight on holiday and I phoned a dealer from Gatwick airport to make sure he saved me some.

The lowest weight I got to was six stone. I'd given up my job and was just running around. But then I suddenly stopped taking drugs. I realised it wasn't doing me any good. I went home to my parents. They didn't ask me any questions, but they got me back together. I started to feel strong. But I still had an eating disorder. I went back to work in London and got a buyer's job. My weight went up to about seven and a half stone. I would eat as long as I'd done lots and lots of exercise and I felt I deserved to eat. I was coming home at weekends - I'd bought my own house and was still going around with the speed crowd. That was how I got into trouble. All week it was a nice sensible life and at weekends I'd go back to my crazy friends and stay up half the night. A lot of them were into drugs. I was like someone who had given up smoking, I couldn't stand drugs, but I still spent my weekends with these people.

It was from there that I got into trouble with these cheque books. I don't really know how it came about. I had a baby boy to look after by now and split up with the father after a few months. I moved back to the house I'd bought, with my baby. I was on income support. I knew there was more



to me than just being a mum. Although that was wonderful, I had more in me than just that role alone. I knew another single parent - she was much worse off than me. She said that if I bought a stolen cheque book from her I could get her some things she needed. So I did. I went off buying things with this cheque book and it was a 'buzz'. It's hard to explain. I felt free. Signing all those cheques willy nilly - it was great fun.

I felt like everyone else. Like normal people. Going round a supermarket with a shopping trolley full of things - like everyone else. Even though I couldn't eat the things I bought because I still had an eating disorder. In fact I used to buy everything that was terrible for you - all sorts of fattening food. It was like a fantasy, knowing that I wouldn't eat it. When you're on income support you could never buy a full load of shopping. It was such a waste of money to buy food when you had bills to pay. And it was such a wonderful feeling to go and be normal with everyone else - doing the shopping. It was a funny thing to do. Of course when I got home I couldn't have the food in the house. It made me realise I needed help. I had bulimia and went on binges and made myself sick. I could get out of most problems in life by myself, but I knew I couldn't get out of this on my own. I went to my doctor and he sent me to an eating disorder clinic. I saw a woman once or twice a week and just through talking and talking I realised that my illness was all due to low self-esteem.

I suppose I used three full cheque books before I was caught. I had a cheque card and I was very, very good at forging signatures - very confident. Funnily enough, I was really glad when I was caught. The police were great, they were really nice. They were lovely. I became friends with one of them for a long time afterwards. I think one of the reasons I got into trouble was that I seem to have rebelled late in life, and by the time I did I had responsibilities.

I went to court and was really frightened because my son was only three. My parents never knew anything about what was happening. I got probation for two years as a first offender. I'd had a miscarriage and it had made my hormones go funny and I'd become suicidal. It all added up, with the eating disorder as well. The court told me to carry on with the treatment for the eating disorder and my probation officer took over eventually from the lady at the clinic. He learnt up everything he could about anorexia and bulimia.

My probation officer helped me a lot. Gradually I started to like myself more and couldn't be put down by people's comments so easily. I saw one of the top doctors at the hospital once and she just held my hand and said, 'You need to forgive yourself and what you've done in the past and stop torturing yourself'. It was just a small comment she made, but she made me feel better instantly. She

talked to me about God. She just made me feel wonderful. I gradually learned to like myself.

All this must paint a picture of a fairly distraught person. But I'm not. In between I was strong and could cope and was leading a normal life. On the outside I was a very confident, determined, independent person, so people didn't know anything was wrong. Even when I went to therapy I used to say I was fine. But you should get down to how you really feel sometimes. I had to learn how to do that. Before, I had to go to the extreme where I was hysterical before I would tell anyone there was anything wrong.

It's all behind me now - although my probation officer has since become a good friend and always boosts my confidence. A lot of men that I've been out with have used my strength to bolster their own inadequacies. Once you recognise that, you can stay away from those sorts of people. When I had the second baby I was a more reasonable weight and he is a normal healthy baby and his father lives with me and the children in the house I bought. He is a very strong independent person who is confident and comfortable with himself. He's got his own life. He doesn't need me to prop him up. If there is anything I want to do, he supports me with it. I have a horse of my own that I look after myself. I feel good about myself. I'm back at college doing a teaching course.

I'm eight and a half stone now. If I was overweight, even now, I'd become hysterical. In the end I feel that I'm well balanced, normal, happy and easy-going. I'm in control of my life. My emotional relationships are a success because I am strong. Even if I married I would want to keep my own name. Some of the people I've met through Toc H have become friends. I have far more in common with them than, say, the fellow clients I met on that first project. I do not see myself as that sort of person at all anymore. A member of the Toc H staff followed me up and got me involved and then becoming a member. I like Toc H because of the interesting people. They are very friendly. It is so nice to go out and meet them. It is fun and easy. Noone is trying to take something from you.

I like the idea that Toc H encompasses a whole range of people and noone is prejudiced against anybody else. It is wonderful. Especially in this day and age when everyone is so selfish. It is nice to make everyone mix - to be kind to each other. I've got here. I've got to somewhere in my life that I am comfortable with and that makes me comfortable with other people. When the doctor at the hospital talked to me about God, something got through to me. I have my own private relationship with God - it is very personal. I think the Toc H idea of a room where you can go off, be on your own and reflect, is wonderful. They make you feel you belong.



# THE PROMOTION OF PILOTS

At Central Council 1991, it was resolved that no new branch or group should be recognised unless it fulfilled certain basic requirements. One of these was that there should be an officer with this role: 'Responsibility for overall direction and health of the unit. This officer should have a real understanding of Toc H and should have been to at least one training event. She/he should hold the library of Toc H literature, and bring to the unit's attention matters concerning Toc H policy and philosophy. Traditionally this officer was called the Pilot'.

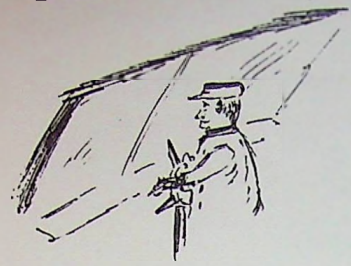
## The role

From early days, Toc H has known that small groups of very independent people can sometimes lose sight of the vision underlying Toc H and get sidetracked. Groups may occasionally get sidetracked into bad ways - we have had our small share of scandals. More often, they get sidetracked into ways that are very worthy and worthwhile, but not about the whole of Toc H. The danger of focusing on one, two or even three Points of the Compass and ignoring the others is ever present. It is a little like the monk who told a visitor that 'We are committed to Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, and this year we are paying special attention to Obedience'! To be recognised as a Toc H branch or group implies an expectation that the unit will be rooted in all Four Points. The Pilot is charged to keep the unit on that course and to steer by all Four Points.

It is, I believe, one of the roles that is uniquely Toc H and helps keep the unit Toc H. Few, if any, other societies have a similar officer. It is a clear statement that the Movement is engaged on an experiment far more serious, and profound, than just voluntary service, or just fellowship, or just academic discussion, or just saying prayers, or just playing skittles.

A recent weekend at Cuddesdon House looked in detail at the role of the Pilot. People read papers written about the role over the years and shared current views. This was a mixed group including people who had been Pilots 30 or more years ago and some young people recently on the staff. They came up with their definition of a Pilot. It is not an official definition, and not the only one, but it represents the views of a cross-section of 23 members and staff. It is reproduced at the foot of this article, and I hope it may lead to some debate.

We may have slightly different views on the role, but I believe the role is crucial. The wisdom of our predecessors pointed Toc H to the idea of a Pilot, and we ignore their wisdom at our peril. The title and the emphasis may change, but the need for some quiet guide, charged with keeping the balance between all Four Points, goes to the heart of Toc H.



## Carrying it out

The Cuddesdon weekend also looked at how the Pilot should best carry out the job. The general view was that, like all important roles, it is often the least conspicuous. A good Pilot is 'low profile', and visitors may not even be able to spot who he or she is. When all goes well the Pilot can lie low.

If things go astray, the Pilot's intervention will often not be public - but may more likely be a quiet chat with a Chairman, or another member, over a coffee or a beer. Some Pilots, for example, will get up and speak at meetings, but others may not even do that. Some will take their turn at Homegoing Prayers or Reflections - while some may step back and quietly challenge others to take the responsibility. (The only failure is the Pilot who does it all the time and prevents others taking, perhaps their first, tentative steps into responsibility for the spiritual life of the unit.) Some may enter into debate about the sorts of jobs that a branch does - but others may prefer a quiet chat with the Jobmaster. Some may enter into public debate about the sort of speakers a branch invites, but others may simply make sure they are involved in programme planning.

There are many ways to influence the balance - the Pilot must work out the ways that are right for him or her - and they are often quiet ways. Equally, the concern a Pilot should have about the welcome and involvement of new people is one that is usually exercised one-to-one, rather than by public address. In the same way, the Pilot who is concerned about the individual growth of each member will work on that by personal contact and engagement.

## The name

I have used the word 'Pilot' throughout this article. The person with this responsibility need not be called by this name - it is open to each unit to devise whatever title they feel best fits the role. The key thing, though, is that the role exists. If it is left to everyone to share, it will suffer the usual fate. What is everyone's responsibility can often become no one's... and I have two vivid memories of Toc H branches that, without a Pilot, went off course. One finished up as a Management Committee of a local CAB - worthy, but not Toc H. The other finished up as a Prayer meeting - worthy, but not Toc H.

There is no disgrace in our making quite sure that what is seen by the world as a unit of Toc H is indeed true Toc H - and the Pilot will make that much more likely.



## A suggested definition of the role

The Pilot's job is to try to ensure:

That all Four Points are balanced.

That conflicts are resolved and not allowed to fester.

That individuals, and the branch as a whole, are encouraged and enabled to fulfil their potential and that they are always growing in their understanding of and commitment to Toc H locally and more widely.

That high standards of care, support, planning and organisation are maintained.

That officers know their roles and are supported and guided in carrying them out.

The Pilot:

should be a Toc H member.

should be a good listener and communicator.

should understand the Four Points of the Compass and be able to commend them as a way of life from a position of personal and considered commitment to each of them.

should be aware of the roles of Pilot and Padre, **which are quite different.**

should have a working knowledge of Toc H history and philosophy.

**John Mitchell**

*Director* ■

## Welcome to 16 New Members

*The following new members were registered during May*

Miss Mary Phillips,  
Miss Jennifer Williams (Bargoed W)  
Kenneth V Adams (Bramley J)  
Maurice Hewens (Crewkerne J)  
Mrs Gladys Pidduck (Mansfield Woodhouse J)  
Mrs Dorothy E Lloyd (Northampton J)  
Albert H Wells BEM,  
Ms Susan Waines (Station J)  
Ivor B Williams,  
Irene M Healey (Stockport District)  
Susan Holmes (Stony Stratford & Wolverton W)  
Miss Rita Muse,  
David N Wilson (Tyne & Wear District)  
Peter G Cotter (Wellingborough M)  
Mrs Doris Goudie,  
Desmond Hall (Wolds District)

## Deaths

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

**In March** Ernest H Payne (Dittons & Tolworth)

**In April** Sydney E Dunn (Porlock)  
Sydney A Garratt (Netherton)

**In May** Derek L Brown (Mid & West Cornwall District)  
D M 'Susie' Budd (Weymouth)  
Doris M Burrell (Norwich)  
Alfred J Frecknall (Southampton District)  
F J 'Jim' Lock (Cirencester)  
Frederick C T Thair (Eastbourne)

**Not previously recorded** Victor J S Bryant (Nailsea)  
Gweneth Clarke (Kidsgrove)  
Ethel M Curry (late Northampton)  
Alan Mears (Dittons & Tolworth)  
Sidney H M Smith (Gloucester)

## SPECIAL TRIBUTES

Milford-on-Sea Branch sadly report the death of **Agnes Ann Speed**, a long-standing member of Toc H. During her years of service she helped with the Mother and Toddler group, also with the weekly lunches, and was always willing to visit the sick. Her presence will be sadly missed by all branch members. **LD**

Both Nailsea branches suffered a grievous loss with the death in April of **Vic Bryant**. A member of Toc H since 1981, he was a member of the Men's Branch executive almost from his recruitment, serving successively as Pilot, Treasurer and latterly Programme Secretary. He was also a very valuable member of the Management Committee, which maintains the hall which the branch runs in the name of Toc H for the benefit of the whole Nailsea community. He will be very sadly missed. There aren't a lot with his enthusiasm and dedication. **SGD**

**Ernest (Jack) Henry Payne**, a member of Tolworth Branch for 40 years, died on 2 March at the age of 75 following a long illness cheerfully borne. He served in the Air Force in India and Burma during the war. He married in 1943 and in 1951 joined Toc H, taking a full part in branch activities and holding various offices. He and his wife were loyal members of St. George's Church, Tolworth,

where his funeral took place on 10 March, attended by many friends and relatives. **FP**

We sadly note the death of **Sidney Dunn**, a member of Porlock Branch, on 23 April at the age of 92. After a career in government work in India and later on at the Treasury, Sidney, with his wife Kath, retired to Porlock 32 years ago. They entered fully into the life of the village and of their church (Porlock Methodist), where he served as Steward for many years. He remained a very active member of Toc H until his death and was noted for his boundless energy. A man of unshakable faith, he was greatly respected and loved by his many friends. **CDC**

Cirencester Branch regret to report the death of their member, **Frederick James (Jim) Lock**. He joined the Movement in 1932 and subsequently on several occasions filled the main offices of the branch. He also served as District Chairman in the 1970s. A loyal Methodist, he devoted his musical ability to playing the church organ and also played for the branch's entertainment evenings for the elderly. A strong supporter of all branch activities right up to this death, he will be greatly missed. **RHT**



# NEWS FROM TOC H, AUSTRALIA

Harold Clay, Chairman, Toc H Australia (see *Point three*, April, p.9), described his epic journey to Townsville in Queensland in a letter to John Biggerstaff. The following are some of the high points.

*Finally posted 6 May 1992*

Dear John (G'day),

Well, we made it!! So far I have covered some 3,250 miles, the extra mileage being due to unfortunate circumstances that I shall relate. Here goes.

After attending an early morning service and accepting greetings from our minister to take to Bishop John Lewis in Queensland, away we went. A beautiful autumn morning.

Esther is driving when suddenly out of the scrub saunters 'old man Emu and Mrs Emu' right across the road in front of us. Esther gives an exclamation and just slows down to watch them disappear into the scrub.

So late afternoon we ambled into Kalgoorlie. A quick call into the cop shop to find out how the road is across the Nullabor Plain, because there had been a lot of rain in the area. They advised us to ring the store at Rawlinna. This we did and we were told that there were some soft patches but otherwise it was okay. How wrong they were!!

We drove along very carefully, diverting where possible and where not, just slipping into fourwheeled drive and taking it easy. Then 18 miles outside Rawlinna, disaster. We suddenly became hopelessly bogged on one side. Out came the Royal Flying Doctor Service radio that we had hired and in no time at all we had a hook up by phone to Rawlinna with a return call telling us that help would be on the way.

A quick hook up and both vehicles straining, we were pulled out in reverse and quickly on our way again. It was pitch black when we arrived in Rawlinna and to our horror we were very rudely told that the accommodation we had been promised was not available. Dirty and very tired we were just pointed to a vacant area of land and told, 'Camp there'. No shower, no toilets, no nothing. We had to erect the tent, cook a meal and wash ourselves as best we could by the car lights - even our super torch called it quits!!

Next morning we learnt we should have been told not to attempt the trip and any hope we had of continuing alongside the railway line was out of the question, two four-wheeled drives driven by locals were hopelessly bogged down further along the track, so that was it! One kind face appeared, when a lady gave us a map showing us how to get across country to emerge at Cocklebiddy along the Eyre Highway. The track was very rough, rocky and muddy and we went through countless gates before reaching bitumen road again. We then phoned the lady as promised. She then apologised for not offering us a shower!! I also called the Royal Flying Doctor Service at Kalgoorlie and let the very nice lady operator know that we were alright.

We stayed that night at Eucla. Off at the crack of dawn with Port Augusta our destination, some 600 miles. We were now one and a half days behind schedule. No problems on the bitumen, except when we stopped for a



*Harold and Esther Clay*

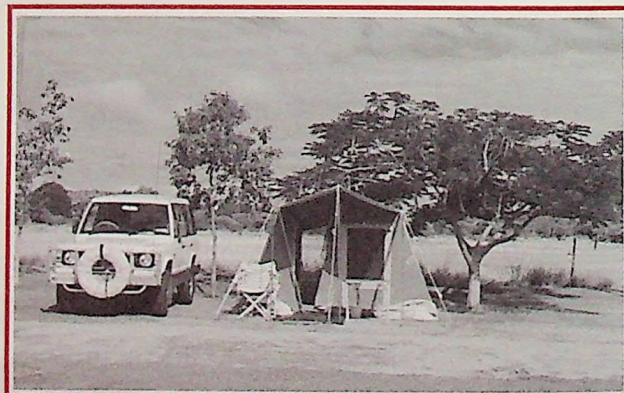
cuppa at one lay-by, we found ourselves covered in small bush flies, which made it impossible to eat or drink outside.

A good night's sleep in Augusta, and then off for a short run to Andamooka, our opal-mining stopover, passing first through Woomera, the British atomic and rocket testing site of the 1950s.

At Andamooka we were now back on dirt roads but now they were hard and dusty, no more mud - we hoped! We intended to stay a couple of days, but, having made friends with a very nice couple from Tasmania and having an overly friendly and rather inebriated gent called 'Irish Paddy' paying rather too much attention to all of us, we decided to call it quits and left on Easter Saturday.

Now was our big test, we were heading for the infamous 'Birdsville Track'. Very dusty, very rough patches with long stretches of sharp stones called 'gibbers'. We came across two men along the track with a punctured petrol tank. We were only 25 miles from our intended overnight stop at a roadhouse and possible help for them, so we arranged if they hadn't turned up in two hours we would come back for them. About one and a half hours later they turned up and managed to get a more permanent plugging of their leak.

Next morning crack of dawn, away to Birdsville and the real outback. We were seeing plenty of wildlife, more emus, kangaroos, dingoes, racehorse goannas and a wide variety of birdlife, plus millions and millions of those horrible little bush flies. The first stop in Birdsville was of course the famous pub and very welcome cold beer disappeared - purely in a medicinal fashion, of course, to wash down the life-threatening dust in one's throat - very serious indeed!!





Fully recovered we found the caravan park and set up camp. We intended to stay two days but the next day, as if the flies weren't bad enough, a high wind came up and we became enveloped in dust - no grass in the park or roads, just a dust bowl. We decamped very quickly and took off towards Bedourie. Esther had a fly veil very kindly made for her by the lady at the local store. We had visited the local policeman, who gave us the necessary information about the track ahead. The lake was flooded so we had to detour, an extra 40 miles, but since we had the four-wheel drive, he detailed for us a short-cut across sandy country.

At Bedourie we had real outback hospitality when we stopped for petrol and Esther asked the lady if there was anywhere we could get a cup of coffee. The lady said no, but she was ready for a cup and so was her husband, so they invited us into their air-conditioned house and made us a cup with lovely fruit cake as well.

We continued to Bonlia where we found a clean and well equipped, friendly caravan park, so we decided to have two days there. Now was the time to get rid of all the dust we had accumulated.

We had had enough of dust for a while, so we decided to keep on bitumen roads and go up to Mount Isa for an overnight stop and on to Charters Towers the next day, which is a delightful mining town. Again we found an excellent caravan park and stayed three nights, giving us plenty of time to really explore this lovely old place. These

outback towns are so friendly and we really enjoy them.

We were now two days ahead of schedule and arrived in Townsville on 26 April, setting up camp in 30°C, in the rain, with humidity at about 90%, very unpleasant. But the rain soon stopped, the sun came out and after a quick shower we were almost human again.

I made contact with Mrs Marcia Bird, secretary of the new Townsville Toc H group and we enjoyed an afternoon with her yesterday. The luncheon and service in the Cathedral is scheduled for Thursday 7 May with 50-70 guests.

We are now enjoying the balmy warmth of the tropics, daytime 29-32°C and evenings around 19°C. On Saturday 9 May we will be leaving for Cairns - only 210 miles away - to meet the group up there for a service on the Sunday morning, followed by the granting of branch status. We will stay there until Monday 11 May and then start making our way south to Congeau House, Bribie Island, for a round of branch meetings and a Queensland Area Executive Meeting on Monday 18 May. And onto Adelaide for the Australian Toc H Council meeting on June 6/7. We will then return home for three weeks before leaving for our holiday up north.

All the best, See ya!

Yours in Toc H,

**Harold Clay**  
Chairman ■

## Toc H Birthday Scheme

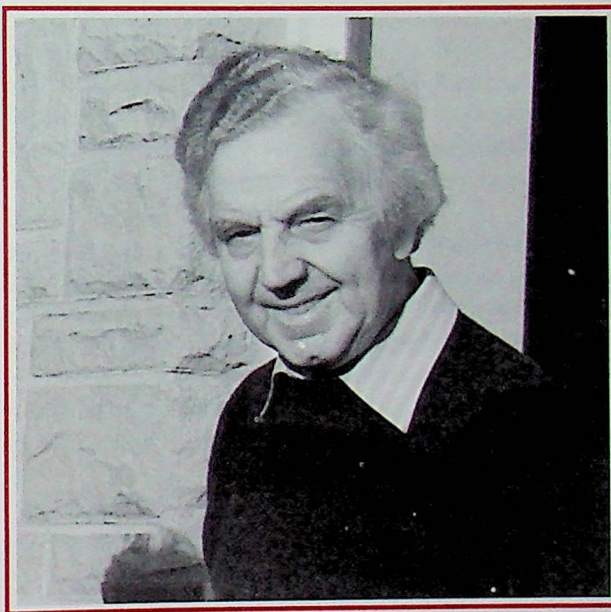
Among the many things attempted by Toc H over the years, the Birthday Scheme must be one of the most effective and long lasting. It is thought to have started around 1927 and was founded not just to raise funds, but deliberately to create friendship.

When the members of Toc H Women's Association founded the Birthday Scheme, they had in mind helping some of the many 'good causes' of the time, and this objective continues to the present. Funds are always required in all voluntary organisations, including Toc H, but are necessary for Toc H only in as far as they assist us in our real purpose of creating friendships.

Members of the scheme sharing the same birthday were introduced to each other and in many instances began corresponding together. So it has continued, and many are the stories that have been told about the joy and happiness that has resulted from such friendships.

To mention one: Canon Harold Lovell, who died earlier this year at the age of 102, had shared a friendship of over 30 years with Albert Mowbray, now 72. Although they never met, neither the age gap nor distance impaired the very rewarding friendship they enjoyed over the years.

In recent years the Scheme has given financial help to the Winant Clayton Volunteers, Talbot House, The Medical Centre Pannikampatti, The Tubby Clayton Ordinands' Fund and Alison House. The latter has always been a favourite with members, many of whom remember it from its beginning and the many happy times they have spent there.



Cyril Carrier

On the appropriate day each member receives a birthday card and newsletter and in return sends a donation to the Scheme. This may vary with circumstances. It is a personal decision, and all donations are gratefully received.

**Cyril Carrier**

*If you would like to be part of this quiet but very purposeful scheme, please send your name, address and birth date, and give brief details of your interests, if you would like a 'link' to: Cyril Carrier, 367 Hungerford Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 1EZ.*



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# TOC H 2000

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## GOING FOR BROKE

With a little retrenchment Toc H could fund its work indefinitely by drawing from the substantial reserves in its Development Fund. Toc H does not need to raise funds! (However, we would have to rename the fund 'Maintenance Fund').

There are many factors that affect a charity's ability to raise funds. Some factors are external, such as the state of the economy; others, internal.

The question I would like to ask, and it does have fundraising implications, is:

*Do we have a God-given right to exist?*

*Or should our existence be based on the quality and relevance of our work?*

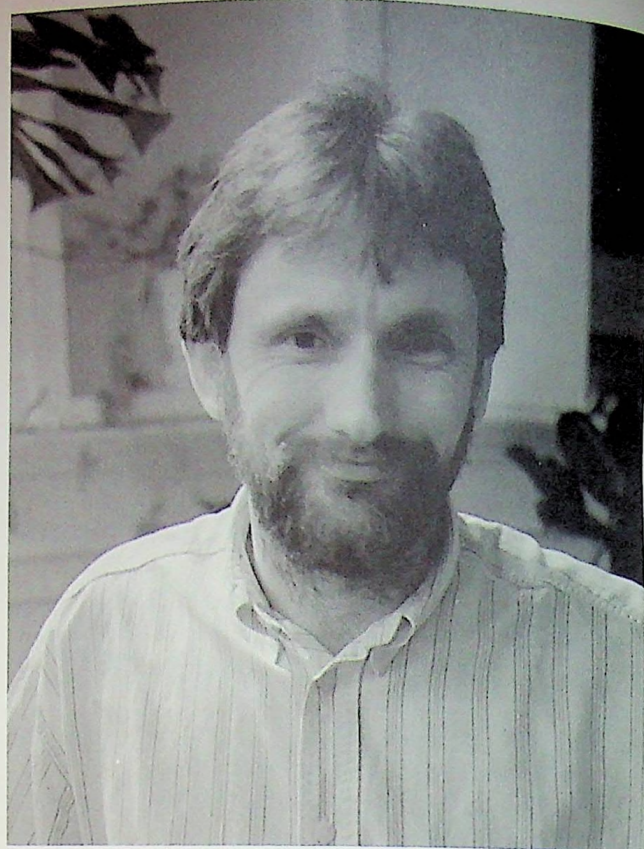
If we believe in the former, perhaps we should retrench a bit and potter on. However, what glory that will be to God I do not know. If, on the other hand, we have the confidence to say that our existence should be based on the quality and relevance of our work, then our work should be able to become self-funding. Other people with money will appreciate what we are doing and want to join in with our aims.

There are two main obstacles to substantial fundraising for Toc H. One has to do with our very large reserves, which are £5m more than one would expect of a charity of a similar size. If you were a trustee of a grant-making trust, would you wish to give to a charity that has about seven years of its annual expenditure in the bank? The other obstacle is our product, which is disparate and small-scale. This is not to say our work lacks in quality.

The answer to both my problems, I believe, is in growth.

From a fundraising perspective Toc H can only survive through growth. Continuing as we are will not bring in substantial fundraised income. But it will erode our reserves on maintenance-type activities and, as Ted Tunnadine has said in many a Treasurer's Report, this is unsustainable.

It is even more unsustainable when income from members is considered. Last year Legacy income overtook the Family Purse for the first time. We are getting more income from dead members than living! Legacy income won't last. My estimate is that it will peak in '96-'97 and begin to reduce after that.



*Ian Pearce Fundraising Officer*

I believe our future can only be in growth. There has been too much decline. This will require a great deal of confidence and some risk. We will need to begin through investing our reserves in development, out in the field, not in maintenance. Such development would need to be of quality and relevance, both to the history of Toc H and to human need.

I could then be writing to trusts and companies :

Toc H is committed to Friendship Circles to the extent that we are spending £1m of our reserves over the next four years in this area. This is vital work that will have a tremendous impact on those it reaches. We want to double this effort and are looking to raise yet another £1m from companies and trusts so we can assist twice the number of people.

I could be writing similar letters to supporters of Projects and Cameos. This could provide a real boost to branches.

Does it sound exciting? Or too risky? After all, if it didn't work many staff jobs could be at risk, as they always were at risk before we sold our assets and made the Development Fund. But perhaps that could also be a powerful motivator.

Through growth we would use up a large portion of our reserves but could develop some quality work of a reasonable scale. If handled right, this could solve both my problems and provide Toc H development staff with much more job satisfaction.

**Ian Pearce**  
*Fundraising Officer* ■



# POSTCARD FROM GERMANY



*Paul French SLO Munster, Fran Christine Diehl, Elsa Brandstrom School, Cecil and Norma Mackay, TOC H Pupils of Edinburgh School Munster*

Yet again a busy period, with the end of the financial year and much rushing around stock-taking and tidying up the books ready for the auditors. Overall a good year for our resources, and we hope to keep on course in '92/'93.

The Berlin group has been holding various events to raise funds for this summer's projects and also has five new members ready to join, including a former Wehrmacht officer who first met Toc H in 1947 in a POW camp in the UK. The group has also applied for formal registration as such and, like Paderborn, is hoping for branch status next year.

Paderborn, Wolfenbuttel and Verden have been active with fundraising, and work has begun with UK districts on the possibility of joint ventures involving British and German schools who cater for the handicapped. Also, welcome back to Anja Fuller from hospital.

On the Munster scene Cecil and Norma Mackay have been busy with the Services Liaison Officer, the Elsa Brandstrom School, and the British Army school in collecting books for a school in Zimbabwe. We have another 2000 books waiting, when they are ready for them. Many thanks to all those in the UK who offered books. We will take them but not yet, please. The school will let us know when they have a container ready to move to Zimbabwe.

Cecil and Norma have also been laying the groundwork for celebrating the 1200th anniversary of Munster in 1993. We hope to get some good projects put together.

In Herford the main effort has been in preparing and publishing administrative procedures for all the volunteers joining us on summer projects. Work has also begun on winter projects and we hope to run three this winter.

We have enjoyed the company of CEC Vice Chairman Arthur Heffernan, the Commander in Chief BAOR, the Bishop to the forces, Toc H Executive Secretary Stewart Casimir and Staff Development Officer Jackie Bartlett. More than enough to keep us going and keep us on our toes. Needless to say we were delighted to be able to entertain all of them and show them our work.

We look forward to the first group of volunteers joining us in early June for our first project. Fred Mason is building up to fever pitch organising our display at the Rhine Army Summer Show, and Paderborn group will be ably assisting.

A couple of staff changes: David Brown will now be Centre Manager at Verden, and Terry Brown will be the new Development Officer in Munster, replacing Cecil and Norma Mackay.



*Jill Coombes from the Verden Centre fully loaded and ready to take on all comers*

My final comment is for Cecil and Norma. Thank you for all you have done and the tremendous contribution you have made. *Bon Voyage* and *viel Gluck* wherever life's journey takes you.

**Malcolm Lowe Zuchmeister** ■



# Your Letters

The Editor, Point 3,  
Toc H Headquarters,  
11, Regent Circle,  
London, W1B 4EY.  
Tel: 01-437 4557

## Sex Segregation

Really, the time has come to put a little perspective into this argument over branch membership gender, particularly now people have started quoting the Epistles out of context.

It appears to me that Headquarters, Central Council and the CEC overlook one very significant aspect. Although Toc H is a national, nay international Movement, its individual branches recruit in and serve a relatively small area each. To this end each branch needs to be autonomous in deciding its own constitution in order to best carry out its functions: in other words it must be a matter of 'Horses for Courses'. May I quote Nailsea Branch as a case in point?

The town is fortunate to have two thriving branches, one for men and one for women. Neither is at all antagonistic to the opposite sex, and fairly frequently they come together in joint efforts. However, the ladies much prefer to meet during daylight hours on one day of the week, while the men are just as keen to have their meetings in the evening of another day. To force them to become a joint branch with one executive would, I am sure, merely lead to resignations from both and a grave diminution of Toc H service and influence in the town.

Please think on before it is too late - leave branches their freedom! I write this an ordinary member, not as elected secretary of Nailsea Men's Branch.

S. G. Doorey  
Nailsea

## A Break from Prison

I am currently serving a custodial sentence. I am also doing voluntary work at the Trinity Centre, a hostel in Birmingham for homeless men. A group from Toc H worked at Trinity some weeks ago and I discussed Toc H with them in great detail and what it does.

I am currently studying for a diploma in social welfare and have been offered a place at Sunderland Polytechnic to study a BA (Hons) in Social Science.

Before my career change I was an army Physical Training Instructor for nine years.

I am very interested in Toc H and glad that I have come across the Movement.

A Howell  
Worcestershire

## Why is Toc H Not Contracting?

In his article in the May issue of *Point three*, David Mayhew argues at great length his opposition to the recent decision taken over the question of contracts with Social Services.

In trying to develop his point of view, he then destroys it by admitting that contracts could lead to piles of paper work, which would transform personal service and possibly diminish opportunities to build friendships, etc.

I personally believe that the decision taken was correct because for Toc H to become an arm of any local Social Services would betray the principles which we hold dear. If we were pressurised into signing such contracts we would merely be at the mercy of the local authority concerned, whose policies could change if their composition altered following an election.

Since the second point is to give personal service, we must be unfettered by outside constraints to put this into practice, otherwise we will NOT be leaping with joy to any task for others.

John Morgan  
Ruislip

## Toc H 2000

I was very active in Toc H affairs between 1978 and 1989 through my involvement with projects in Britain and South Africa, but I have not done very much in the last few years, though I have remained a Central Branch member.

Articles exhorting Toc H to be more active and more dynamic in order to justify the Movement's existence are something I find difficult to sympathise with. I do believe that there is a role for Toc H, because when the right combination of people and activities come together in the Movement, the quality of work undertaken and relationships made is remarkable. I would not have spent the greater part of my spare time over 10 years on Toc H activities if it had been otherwise.

What concerns me is the over-preoccupation the Movement has with problems of the future (not enough members and too much money) and the glories of the past (a large nationwide membership and much real influence).

I believe that the most interesting, fruitful and enjoyable time spent by Toc H members and volunteers is that spent identifying, planning and carrying out the work Toc H is known for and discussing and reflecting upon this experience.

Peter Ranken  
Essex



## Garden Design Weekend Prompts Memories

It gave me great pleasure to read 'A Garden Design Weekend at Alison House' (*Point three*, April) and to see a photograph of the house for which I have so much affection. Old members, especially those originally in the Women's Association, will understand my deep interest in this.

In 1966 at the Central Council of the Women's Association, I (as General Secretary) was instructed to buy a house for conferences and holidays. After a good deal of discussion, it was decided to look for a house either in London or somewhere in the centre of England, possibly Derbyshire. Together with the WA Trustees, I then viewed one house in London, which was unsuitable and well above our price. I realised then that we would have to look outside the capital.

I had previously been with the WYCA and their chairman in Derby was a friend of mine; what was more, her husband had been one of Tubby's ADCs. I telephoned her and explained that I wanted to house-hunt in the Derby area, and she very kindly suggested that I stay with them. In the meantime she offered to obtain a list of houses on the market.

On 1 August 1967 a senior clerk of Derby Diocese, my friend and I set off to view the Old Rectory at Cromford. As we drove into Intake Lane, I noticed two other houses for sale and remarked on this to the clerk, who was driving. He assured me that the house I had seen on the left was far too small for our purposes.

The day was cold and dismal and the Old Rectory, empty for 11 years, was dark and dingy. It was to be auctioned, but the clerk did not know the reserve price. He suggested that I telephone the agent when I returned to Derby. As we drove out along famous Cromford Street, lined with old weavers' cottages, we passed the Bell Inn, and I thought how handy that might be!

Back at my friend's house, I rang the agent for details about the Old Rectory. I considered the reserve price very high, and said so, remarking that one would have to spend a great deal of money to make the place habitable.

Then, quite by chance, I said that I had noticed that there was another house for sale on Oak Hill. Contrary to what the clerk had told me, the agent said that the other house would be too large for our purposes.

This made me curious, to say the least.

I rang off and ran into the kitchen where my friend was preparing lunch. Thoughtfully stirring the soup, she remarked that it looked like 'some dirty work at the cross roads!' But how could we check? Suddenly, both of us thought of the Bell Inn. Were they on the telephone? They were. I asked if they knew the name of the people wanting to sell the house in front of the Old Rectory. Very kindly they gave me the name and phone number. I telephoned and the owner

suggested we return to Cromford that afternoon to see his house. So, after lunch, my friend drove me back, this time to view the Dower House.

I knew at once it was the house we wanted. It had recently been surveyed and was to be auctioned in two days' time if the price being asked by the owner could not be reached before then. I promptly notified the Trustees and requested that they come to Cromford the following day, as time was not on our side. Kathleen Owen and Nora Bloxham arrived the next day and agreed that this was the house for us. Their offer was accepted by the owner, and the Dower House became the property of Toc H WA.

Alterations and extensions took a year; the first visitors arrived in August 1968.

There is no need to explain why the name Alison was chosen! Or is there?

Miss Vera Harley  
London

## Spreading the Word

How much we agreed with the letter by Chris Williams in the April issue of *Point three*.

It is time that we all stood up and told the world that Toc H is alive and kicking, and that we are not as proverbially dim as our lamp, which should shine brightly for those of us in the know. So let us all pull together and work with our fellow members, whoever they are, as we all have a part to play in the future of the Movement.

What does it matter how many members a branch has? What is better - a large branch of semi-committed members who have been encouraged to join to make the numbers up so that the branch can maintain its status, or a small branch who are working hard and taking the message of Toc H out into the community?

The ideal is, of course, a branch that is large and covers all aspects of Toc H work, but we do not live in a perfect world so let's make the best of what we have and try to bring the Movement alive again. Let's start by encouraging people to carry out new initiatives, and give a pat on the back occasionally instead of taking things for granted or ignoring them. A little encouragement goes a long way and will help to 'disown discouragement'.

Whatever our differences, we all have one thing in common, our love of Toc H, whatever form it takes. Everyone involved is equally valuable, whatever their role, be it large or small. So let's not lose the small groups in a web of bureaucracy but welcome them into our hearts and be united as one Movement.

Richard Newby, Treasurer, Bridlington Action Group  
Anne Puddicombe, Chairman, NE Region



# BRANCH NEWS

Joan Nicholas of **Wolverhampton Branch**, dressed in her leisure attire, was strolling through a market in Paphos, Cyprus, when she heard a familiar voice. It was Connie Tate of **Much Wenlock Branch**, immaculately well groomed!

Philip Coomes, District Members' Secretary for the **Melton and Charnwood District**, thought *Point three* readers would be amused by a letter received from Joe Traxler, one of the oldest District Members.

I enclose the Slip of Commitment to Toc H ideals with apologies for the delay. I have been in hospital for nearly a month. This is always a somewhat chastening experience. However sorry one may be for oneself, there is always some unfortunate in the next bed who is in a much worse state! To quote from ITMA of many years ago, "It's being so cheerful as keeps me goin'!" Being cheerful doesn't get you any sympathy, but can help some others to have a few minutes relief from thinking about their troubles. Of course, when I entered Ward 7 at Grantham Hospital I was quite sure, in my smugness, that I was the oldest patient there. But, lo and behold, there was an old chap of 95 and a bright old lady of 99. At 91, soon to be only 92, my ego was deflated, but I did say to the doctors, 'I expect you to keep me going through to my century, for I want to see the new millenium begin!' They were rash enough to say that they thought I had good prospects of living for another eight years.

In the event I got down to six stones in weight, a bit low even for my small body. Not even fly-weight, rather flea-weight without the bite! However I am now eating better, which is a good start in recovery.

**Joseph Traxler**

**Coney Hall** hosted the Springfields District Guest Night in April supported by Hayes (Kent) and New Addington Branches. Hayes Senior Citizens party was held in March. The annual sponsored swim organised by New Addington was held at West Wickam Baths on 2 May with 26 participants. Derek Smith, District Secretary, tells us that George Brooks, an active octogenarian, has been associated with Toc H for 68 years, 50 of which as a member of Coney Hall. Branch members will assist at Coney Hall's annual Strawberry Tea on 27 June.



*Flo Mellor, a member of Shavington Branch who received Maundy Money from the Queen at Chester Cathedral this year. Flo, who is in her mid 80s, has been a member of Toc H for many years and is always willing to help where she can.*

**Lindley Men's Branch** held their 40th anniversary of the founding of the branch on 3 April at their rooms in the Lindley Methodist Centre. They were joined by members from other branches together with Central Councillor Anne Puddicombe and staff members Bill Bains and Alan Budge. The most enjoyable evening ended with a hot supper.

**Chard Branch** held their annual Guildhall Guest Night on 13 May when over 100 members gathered to enjoy good food, fellowship and entertainment by Ken Wheadon as well as a Barber Shop Quartet. The Mayor and Mayoress were among the guests as was Mary Edwards, who has just stood down as Regional Chairman for the South West. A warm welcome was given to Daphne Dawes, who has succeeded Mary as Regional Chairman.

Congratulations to Dennis Corner of **Porlock Branch** on his television debut in the HTV programme 'Secrets of the Moor'. Dennis gave a graphic account of the Lynmouth Lifeboat's overland trek and launch from Porlock.



On 4 April **Garforth Branch**, ably assisted by nine senior pupils from the comprehensive school, held a 'Pensioner's Playday' in St Mary's Church Hall. Twenty-eight senior citizens were greeted by their young hosts and hostesses and served tea and biscuits. Mrs Edith Skinner recited Yorkshire dialect poems and anecdotes, and this was followed by a game of bingo. After a splendid lunch, Bill Baines spoke about Toc H, and then more games were played. The afternoon finished with a sing-along led by organist Simon Noble. The dancing proved a Toc H point, that there is no such thing as an age barrier. Our grateful thanks go to all who helped make it a memorable day.



*The editor was guest speaker at a lively A.G.M. at Northants on 21st May and introduced Norma Bearblock, our new Membership Secretary. The photo shows a rapt audience!*





**North East Region Leadership Training Weekend** held at the Colsterdale Centre. During a session on reflections we had to represent our feelings about the weekend and this is what one group came up with.

*The paper is our experience  
The border is the aims of Toc H  
The scissors are the teachers with their ability to cut through all the mistrust, division and doubt pervading our society. We represent a wide spectrum of people And we draw upon our experience to create this piece within the boundary of the aims of Toc H.  
The glue and sellotape bind us together  
The postcards are our communication with others  
These are the balls of fun we have had...and in true Toc H spirit, we have wasted nothing, while utilizing everything.*

## Yeti May-nia

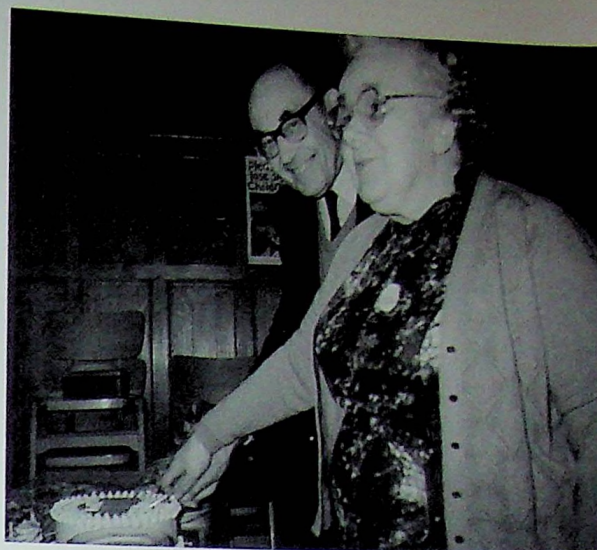
A weekend of fresh air, frantic action and frenzied fun was promised by the **Bridlington TAG (Toc H Action Group)** - and they certainly weren't joking.

The aptly named project took place over the May Day Bank Holiday, and in the short space of just two days we took a total of 18 children on various exciting excursions. Down on Cruxley animal farm, we discovered that one of our volunteers was afraid of birds and that one of the children wanted to drive a tractor - home! At Hornsea Potteries there were ice creams all round and all over! A trip to Humberside Ice Arena gave the children an opportunity to show the volunteers how to ice skate and, finally, at the Museum of Army Transport, they climbed all over the tanks - the volunteers, that is!

That might have been enough for most people but Brid TAG never do things by halves (except the painting of their TAG rooms!), so we also had photo sessions for the local press and not one but two yeti hunts. In these Brid TAG specialities, their pet yeti (AKA Steve, chairman of the TAG) is chased around the town by volunteers in fancy dress. On this occasion the poor yeti was chased by a cowboy, a fur trapper, a cat burglar (with a cat!), a skeleton who'd lost his head, plus hundreds of local children.

Along with the hard work, we also had the promised dose of fun with a midnight beach barbecue, killer snap competitions, and we can't forget the pig-pong - though I'm sure we'll try!

**Nick Hawden**



**Richmond upon Thames** Joint Branch celebrated its 60th anniversary in April with a service conducted by the Revd Anthony Caldicott. This was followed by refreshments and a social gathering. The branch, now consisting of 10 senior citizens, meets weekly with a full programme of speakers and activities, but jobs are more restricted now. In the photograph the present chairman, Emily Sullivan, is seen cutting the cake with past chairman, Dennis Sanders, who travelled from Anglesey for the occasion.

## UP DATE

Vice President of Toc H South Australia, Arthur Blizzard, was 78 on 25 April. He recently visited Headquarters in Wendover and spoke to the editor about his career with TocH. He joined in 1936 and has been a member for 55 years. His branch, Semaphore (a seaside area of Port Adelaide) and Largs, closed at Christmas. Arthur is on holiday in the UK for four months, and has visited many branches during his stay. The editor caught up with him at Northants AGM on 21 May.



Arthur Blizzard, Vice President Toc H, South Australia



## Toc H CENTRE

Port Penrhyn

Book five days for a total cost of £145 in beautiful North West Wales. The Centre overlooks Anglesey and the Menai Strait and is within a short drive of the mountains of Snowdonia. This special low charge offer is available from December to February only, excluding the half-term holiday, and is for the nights of Monday to Thursday inclusive.



For further information and bookings please contact: Edna and George Cowley, Toc H Centre, Port Penrhyn, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 4HN. Tel: 0248 351906

## TOC H BERLIN

A long weekend and a chance to explore this fascinating cosmopolitan city. Toc H is able to offer you bed and breakfast, with accommodation on the edge of Spandau Forest, just a short bus, tube or car ride from the city centre. All rooms with washbasin/TV/coffee and tea making facilities.

For further details contact:  
Centre Manager,  
Toc H Centre,  
Berlin, BFPO 45

LEEDS DISTRICT TOC H

## BAND CONCERT

by the  
YORKSHIRE EVENING POST BAND

Saturday 19 September 1992 at 7.30 pm

in Ossett Town Hall

Tickets: £3.00 and £2.50 (with 50p concessions) available shortly.

Please contact: Ken or Cynthia Quayle  
39 Longfield Drive  
Rodley  
Leeds 13  
Tel: 0532 556668

## Prideaux House

The Community of Reconciliation  
and Fellowship



Prideaux House is not an hotel, nor a boarding house, nor a hostel. It is the home of a community of people who have found their faith in God very real and relevant.

Our aim is to offer good quality accommodation in a homely atmosphere for that short break in London, near the West End, theatres, shops, museums and concerts. Ideally suited for persons attending conferences, courses, business meetings, interviews, and for those in need of relaxation. Perfect for groups or persons wanting peace and quiet.

Accommodation is offered in The Stanley Coulson Wing of our Community House and Centre in ten single (only) rooms, and all proceeds support our work in Hackney.

Each bedroom has a very high standard of furnishing with own wash-basin. There are good shower facilities, lounges, TV Room, small garden and the Community Chapel. Wholesome cooking is the norm. Sadly, accommodation is not suitable for children, smokers and persons on specific orthodox diets.

For further information contact:

The Rev Gualter R de Mello, Prideaux House, Ecumenical  
Interfaith Centre, 10 Church Crescent, London E9 7DL.  
Telephone: 081-986 6000

## POINT THREE FOR THE BLIND

The magazine is now available in tape form for readers who are either blind or partially sighted. Several members have already taken advantage of this excellent facility which is only £3, including postage, for 12 months. Write to: Harry C Bailey, 27 Harrowden Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3BG

**Christian Singles**, friendship contacts,  
fellowship groups, social events, nationwide.  
Weekend Houseparties. Holidays.

Christian Fellowship Friendship, Dept 23B,  
Edenthorpe, Doncaster DN3 2QD

## CUDDESDON HOUSE

Leaders: Adrian Dudman and Alan Johnson

**THE STILL CENTRE** 18 - 20 September

In the middle of busy lives, stillness is difficult to grasp, and creative silence is unfamiliar. During this weekend there will be an opportunity to think about stillness and some periods of silence interspersed with talks and discussion.

**A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY** 9 - 11 October

A time to pause and reflect together on the nature of spirituality, particularly in Toc H. The programme during the weekend focusses on the Statement of Reaffirmation in which Toc H is described as 'a journey of discovery'.

The cost for each of these events is £25 and includes accommodation and meals from supper on Friday evening to lunch on Sunday. These events are subsidised from central Toc H funds and any contribution over the stated cost will be gratefully received.

To book your place please send a deposit of £10, indicating which event you wish to attend to: Revd J Alan Johnson, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT.

## Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to *Point three Magazine*. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

**Hythe, Kent** - homely accommodation in member's home. Bed/breakfast and/or evening meal or full board, very reasonable rates. Enquire Nesta Cock, 7 Toumay Close, Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT12 4LL. Tel: 0303 269407